

00006

c. 1954/07/00

Position of the United States. In a unilateral statement which he made in the 8th Plenary Session on July 21, 1954 the United States representative, General Smith: 1) took note of the armistice agreements and of paragraphs 1 to 12 of the declaration presented to the Geneva Conference on July 21, 1954; 2) declared that the United States "will refrain from the threat or the use of force to disturb them" and "would view any renewal of the aggression in violation of the aforesaid agreements with grave concern and 3) expressed the position of the United States on "the statement in the declaration concerning free elections in Viet-Nam" as follows:

...my Government wishes to make clear its position which it has expressed in a Declaration made in Washington on June 29, 1954, as follows:

In the case of nations now divided against their will, we shall continue to seek to achieve unity through free elections, supervised by the United Nations to insure that they are conducted fairly.

Then General Smith continued:

With respect to the statement made by the Representative of the State of Viet-Nam, the United States reiterates its traditional position that peoples are entitled to determine their own future and that it will not join in an arrangement which would hinder this. Nothing in its declaration just made is intended to or does indicate any departure from this traditional position.

We share the hope that the agreement will permit Cambodia, Laos and Viet-Nam to play their part in full independence and Sovereignty, in the peaceful community of nations, and will enable the peoples of that area to determine their own future.*

* US Verbatim Minutes.

